(c) whether Government have taken any action on these suggestions so far; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRI JAGMOHAN): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The World Travel and Tourism Council (WTTC) has suggested upgradation of basic tourist facilties, which include, among others, safe and hygienic environment, better roads, adequate means transport, accommodation priced at every level, tourist coaches, food outlets, information kiosks, better signage and improvement of aesthetics around tourist sites.

(c) and (d) The National Tourism Policy-2002 envisages creation of world class infrastructure to make tourism more attractive. The Department of Tourism Government of India provides financial assistance to the State Government / Union Territory Administrations for infrastructure development including upgradation and expansion of tourist facilities, health centres, wayside amenities, public conveniences, reception centres, yatri niwas, signage etc. During the Ninth Plan period an amount of Rs. 180.45 crores has been spent for the development of tourism infrastructure in the country.

Promotion of regional tourism

5092. SHRI RAJNATH SINGH 'SURYA': Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have any proposal for promoting regional tourism in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, whether such a proposal will be considered and implemented soon?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRI JAGMOHAN): (a) In order to develop and promote regional tourism in the country the Department of Tourism, Government of India proposes to identify six travel circuits in the country on annual basis and develop them to international standards.

(b) and (c) The six travel circuits will be finalized and developed in close coordination and partnership with the State / UT Governments.

Construction of memorials of literary personalities

†5093. SHRI DEVI PRASAD SINGH: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to construct some memorials at the birth places of great literary personalities;

(b) if not, whether Government would consider to construct some memorials in the memory of the Jnanpeeth laureates of Indian languages; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRI JAGMOHAN): (a) to (c) No, Sir. However, there is a scheme for providing grant-in-aid to Registered voluntary organizations / societies for development and maintenance of National Memorials. The scheme also covers financial assistance for Memorials set up on the initiative of the State Government. Proposals are considered by the Expert Committee as and when these are received from voluntary organizations / State Governments.

Expenditure on maintenance of memorials and monuments

†5094. SHRI DEVI PRASAD SINGH: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the estimated expenditure incurred by Government on maintaining the memorials and heritages of national and historical importance scattered throughout the country;

(b) whether there is some financial crunch to maintain them; and

(c) if so, the action being taken to do away with the same?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRI JAGMOHAN): (a) The Department of Culture provides grant-in-aid to Voluntary Organizations / Societies for development and maintenance of National Memorials. The grant-in-aid is of non-recurring nature. During the last three years, the amount released

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.